

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR EDITORIAL, APRIL 29

NO. 30

JOSEPH C. HARSCH EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "DR. KISSINGER'S AFRICA"
FOLLOWS:

IT IS TWO AND HALF MONTHS NOW SINCE KISSINER LEARNED HARD
WAY THAT HE DID NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT AFRICA -- WHICH IS
PRECISELY WHY HE IS THERE NOW. AND SINCE HE WILL PRESUM-
ABLY BE IN CHARGE OF AMERICA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR AT LEAST
ANOTHER 8 MONTHS ONE MUST HOPE THAT HE IS MAKING UP FOR LOST
TIME DURING HIS CURRENT JOURNEY.

TWO AND A HALF MONTHS AGO WAS WHEN HIS BELATED ATTEMPT TO
INTERVENE IN ANGOLA CAME TO AN IGNOMINIOUS COLLAPSE. A
DIVISION OF COMPETENT CUBAN SOLDIERS ROUTED FEW SCATTERED
WHITE MERCENARIES RECRUITED MUCH TOO LATE AND TOO CARELESS-
LY FOR KISSINGER'S SIDE. BY MID-FEBRUARY IT WAS ALL OVER.
SURVIVING MERCENARIES STRAGGLED BACK TO ENGLAND WITH A
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HORROR STORY OF THEIR LEADER WHO HAD TURNED MACHINE GUNS

ON HIS OWN TROOPS. OPERATION PROBABLY GETS PRIZE AS BEING WORST BUNGLED OF ITS KIND IN AT LEAST QUARTER CENTURY.

RESULTS HAVE BEEN DECISIVE. FACTION BACKED BY MOSCOW WITH ARMS AND CUBAN TROOPS IS COMPLETE WINNER. WHOLE OF ANGOLA IS NOW IN ITS HANDS. WINNERS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS GOVT OF ANGOLA BY BLACK AFRICA TO THE NORTH AND EAST AND BY WHITE SOUTH AFRICA TO SOUTH. U.S. IS ALREADY IN INDIRECT CONVERSATION WITH PEOPLE IN CHARGE IN LUANDA. AMERICAN RECOGNITION WILL FOLLOW SOMEDAY, PRESUMABLY AFTER NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

IT WAS A CASE WHERE KREMLIN HAD DECIDED LONG AGO TO BACK ONE FACTION IN A 3-CORNERED COMPETITION TO SEE WHO WOULD BE FUTURE RULERS OF ANGOLA. KREMLIN PLANNERS DID FIRST-CLASS JOB. THEY CHOSE TRIBAL GROUP WHICH WAS DOMINANT IN AND AROUND CAPITAL AND THROUGHOUT CENTRAL PART OF COUNTRY. THEY GAVE IT WEAPONS AND TRAINING BEFORE WASHINGTON EVEN RECOGNIZED THAT ANGOLA WAS ON WAY TO INDEPENDENCE AND BLACK MAJORITY RULE. BY TIME PORTUGUESE PULLED OUT OF ANGOLA LAST NOVEMBER RUSSIANS HAD SITUATION UNDER FIRM CONTROL.

IN THEORY KISSINGER COULD STILL HAVE FRUSTRATED RUSSIAN PLAN. A DIVISION OF U.S. MARINES COULD HAVE BEEN LANDED AT OR NEAR LUANDA, BACKED BY ENTIRE U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET. U.S. COULD HAVE DEPLOYED DECISIVE MILITARY POWER IN AREA. SOVIET UNION COULD NOT HAVE MOVED ENOUGH STRENGTH TO SOUTH ATLANTIC TO BALANCE AMERICAN FORCES WHICH WERE POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE.

BUT CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION IN GENERAL WERE IN NO MOOD FOR ANY SUCH ADVENTURE. COUNTRY THEN WAS IN A POST-VIETNAM CONDITION -- AND STILL IS. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR KISSINGER TO SEND TO ANGOLA THE FORCE WHICH COULD HAVE CHANGED OUTCOME. CONGRESS REFUSED TO GIVE HIM ANY MONEY AT ALL FOR ANGOLA AID. HE ASKED, AND WAS TURNED DOWN AS DECISIVELY AS HE HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN A YEAR EARLIER OVER A LAST-STAND EFFORT IN VIETNAM. PLAIN FACT IS THAT CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH MILITARY INTERVENTION IN FARAWAY PLACES TO SATISFY THEM FOR SOME TIME.

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ALL OF WHICH MEANS THAT KISSINGER HAS LEARNED A BITTER LESSON HARD WAY. IN ANGOLA STORY HE MISCALCULATED READINESS OF PORTUGUESE TO LEAVE, DETERMINATION OF BLACKS TO TAKE OVER, FIRMNESS OF SOVIET SUPPORT AND -- MOST IMPORTANTLY OF ALL -- DETERMINATION OF CONGRESS TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH FARAWAY ADVENTURES NOW. HE MADE JUST ABOUT EVERY MISTAKE WHICH COULD BE MADE. HE ENDED UP BACKING LOSER AND GAVE MEN

OF MOSCOW THEIR EASIEST WIN IN A LONG TIME.

SO NOW HE GOES TO THAT PART OF BLACK AFRICA WHICH WILL RECEIV
HIM. NIGERIA, MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL BALCK STATES, TOLD HIM
TO KEEP AWAY. HE IS SAYING CORRECT THINGS. HE NOW RECOG-

NIZES DOCTRINE OF MAJORITY RULE. HE IS GOING TO ASK
CONGRESS TO REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT WHICH, IN ITS EFFECT,
SUSTAINS WHITE MINORITY RULE IN RHODESIA. HE IS PUBLICLY
PROCLAIMING POLICY TOWARD AFRICA WHICH HIS STATE DEPT
AFRICAN EXPERTS ADVISED HIM TO ADOPT -- BEFORE ANGOLA.
HE DID NOT LISTEN TO THEM THEN. NOW HE IS LISTENING.

RESIDUAL QUESTION IS WHETHER THIS CHANGE IN AMERICAN
DECLARED POLICY TOWARD AFRICA COMES IN TIME TO AVOID A
BLOODBATH IN RHODESIA. WHITE GOVT THERE IS STILL HOLDING
OUT AGAINST THEORY OF MAJORITY RULE. IF WHITE LEADERS
BELIEVE THAT KISSINGER HAS IN FACT DECIDED TO WITHDRAW
HIS SUPPORT FROM THEM THEY JUST MIGHT STILL COME TO TERMS
WITH BLACKS AND NEGOTIATE A GRADUAL AND PEACEFUL TRANSITION.

IT IS LATE IN DAY FOR THAT. AND UNTIL NOW WHITE LEADER-
SHIP COULD THINK THAT KISSINGER WAS ACTUALLY ON THEIR
SIDE. HIS DEVOTION TO IDEA OF MAJORITY RULE WAS NOT
PREVIOUSLY CONVINCING. HOW CONVINCING IS IT NOW?

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